

REFERRAL

DATE: 18 JAN 80

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

8001289

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRES

FROM: FINDLEY, PAUL

DATE: 07 JAN 80

KEYWORDS: GRAINS

USSR

AFGHANISTAN

CO

SUBJ: REVERSE CANCELLATION RE GRAIN SALE

REQUIRED ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

DUEDATE: 25 JAN 80

COMMENTS: CLEAR REPLY W/ USDA



FOR CHRISTINE DODGSON

STAFF SECRETARY

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January 7, 1980

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cc: Eizenstat, Baker

The Honorable Jimmy Carter
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to reverse your order cancelling the sale of 17 million tons of grain to the Soviet Union over the next ten months. The cancellation hurts U.S. interests severely and Soviet interests hardly at all.

It violates the cardinal principle that food should never be singled out for use as a tool of international politics. It is absurd to cancel food sales. The cancellation will hurt severely U.S. farm income and put in question our reliability as a supplier of food to foreign markets, but that is not its most serious drawback.

It's worst shortcoming is that it will be totally ineffective as a countermeasure to naked Soviet aggression in Afghanistan. Moscow will find a way to buy the grain it wants. Other major exporters like Canada and Australia will find a way to serve bullish markets.

If not reversed, your decision will force enormous cutbacks in U.S. agricultural production at enormous cost to U.S. taxpayers without causing anything but minor inconvenience to the Soviet Union.

Instead, the United States should take strong action to reassure Afghanistan's neighbors that they won't be gobbled up by the Russian bear. For example:

--The United States should immediately begin covertly arming those forces in Afghanistan which are fighting Soviet aggression.

--The U.S. should call upon its allies immediately to help form a joint system to assure security of vital Indian Ocean sea-lanes and to restructure NATO into an instrument to counter Soviet pressure wherever it may occur worldwide.

--The U.S. base at Diego Garcia must be strengthened.

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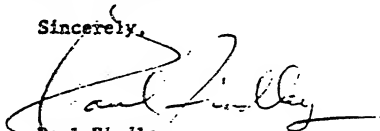
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--All arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union--such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Mutual Balanced Force Reductions--should be suspended.

--The United States should abrogate the many scientific exchange agreements we have with the U.S.S.R.

These five steps can be accomplished swiftly and constitute a worthy, effective and durable response to Soviet imperialism.

Sincerely,



Paul Findley
Member of Congress